

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Adams-Edwards House

Raleigh, Wake County, WA4429, Listed 12/6/2006

Nomination by Cynthia de Miranda

Photographs by Cynthia de Miranda, January 2006



Façade view



Side (west) view

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Adams-Edwards House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 5400 Tryon Road

n/a ☐ not for publication

city or town Raleigh

☒ vicinity

state North Carolina

code NC

county Wake

code 183

zip code 27606

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other,

(explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Adams-Edwards House
Name of Property

Wake County, NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County,
North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: three-room plan house

OTHER: Greek Revival-influenced

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls Weatherboard

roof METAL

other CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Adams-Edwards House
Name of Property

Wake County, NC
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1850 – ca. 1900

Significant Dates

ca. 1850

ca. 1860

ca. 1880

ca. 1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☒ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☒ Local Government
- ☒ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

North Carolina State Archives, Wake Co. Register of Deeds,
and North Carolina Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill

Adams-Edwards House
Name of Property

Wake County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.89 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 705135 3958219
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cynthia de Miranda
organization Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. date February 27, 2006
street & number Post Office Box 1711 telephone 919/682-2211
city or town Durham state NC zip code 27702

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Jerry Pritchard
street & number 2356 Stevens Road telephone
city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27610

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Park Service

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Adams-Edwards House
Wake Co., N.C.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Adams-Edwards House is on the north side of Tryon Road just east of the Macedonia crossroads in Swift Creek Township in south central Wake County, North Carolina. The house stands roughly fifty feet from Tryon Road and is surrounded by a few hardwoods as well as scrub that has grown during recent years of vacancy. Across Tryon Road stand a few brick Ranch houses dating from the 1950s, occupying land historically associated with the house. The land north and east of the dwelling, also once part of the farm associated with the house, is being prepared for development into suburban housing. The Haven Free Will Baptist Church, built in 1982, occupies the parcel immediately west of the house. The land is gently rolling, sloping down toward a creekbed behind the house, and is wooded with young growth. A well house stands just northeast of the house.

Adams-Edwards House, ca. 1850 with additions and alterations ca. 1860, ca. 1880, ca. 1900
Contributing Building

The Adams-Edwards House was built in stages, beginning as a three-room-plan, side-gabled house, now the east end of the existing dwelling. The original three-room section measures 24 feet wide and 17 ½ feet deep. Two consecutive one-room additions were made to the west end of the original house in the mid- and late nineteenth century before the addition of a rear ell at the turn of the twentieth century. Front and rear porches and a decorative center gable were also added in the late nineteenth century. The end result is a single-story, single-pile, side-gabled house with a centered front gable, a three-quarter-width hip-roofed front porch (partially destroyed by a recent fire), and a one-story gabled rear ell.

The house and ell stand on a foundation primarily composed of stone. A continuous stone foundation supports the entire front of the dwelling, while stone piers provide the foundation elsewhere. There is also concrete-block infill in the foundation of the ell and in some areas across the rear elevation of the main section. Weatherboards sheathe the walls, which are punctured by six-over-six and four-over-four double-hung wood sash. Most weatherboards are plain, but a sizable section of wide beaded weatherboards remain on the east end of the rear elevation of the main section. Windows typically feature narrow flat muntins with beveled edges. Standing-seam metal covers the roof.

The single-pile house is six bays wide with two front doors on the facade. Both doors feature two lights above three panels. The three-quarter-width hip-roofed porch, added ca. 1880, has been partially destroyed by a recent fire. The floor is completely gone, but the hipped porch roof and beadboard ceiling remain, as do the rustic timber porch supports. Scorch marks are visible where the porch floor

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joined the house and along the bases of the porch posts. The absence of the porch floor reveals a portion of the building's timber frame.

The house has a boxed cornice with cornice returns at the end gables; the central gable, also added ca. 1880, lacks returns. The central gable and east-end gable each feature a small, square window opening. The four-light sash window remains at the east gable wall, but only the opening exists on the central gable. There is no evidence of an opening in the west gable. The side-gabled roof has a relatively steep pitch and an interior corbelled brick chimney rises at the roof ridge. The chimney is slightly off center relative to the width of the existing building; it had been an exterior chimney on the west elevation of the original building, heating its largest room. A remnant of an earlier wood shingle roof remains beneath the added central gable; this hidden portion of the roof has the same slope as the visible sections of roof. The hand-split shingles are long and narrow.

The gable walls of the house do not have matching fenestration. The east gable wall, on the original house, has two six-over-six double-hung sash windows below the square four-light window in the gable. The sashes of the first-floor windows are pegged and the muntins are flat with beveled edges. The exterior surrounds have applied molding and are heavily weathered. The easternmost window on the facade shows the same detailing, but the other three windows across the facade lack the applied molding. The west gable wall has just one six-over-six double hung window centered beneath the gable; its muntins, proportions, and trim match the windows at the west end of the facade.

The rear of the house features a ca. 1900 gabled ell, which extends north from the west end of the rear elevation, and an attached shed-roofed porch, with portions enclosed, across the remaining east portion of the rear elevation. The ell has an exterior end chimney of stone with a newer brick stack at the north gable wall. Six-over-six double-hung wood windows flank the chimney. A small shed-roofed porch shelters the six-light, three-panel door near the north end of the west side of the ell; that side also has a six-over-six double-hung wood window. The porch has exposed rafter tails and a metal roof supported by replacement squared posts. There is no porch rail and the floor is a plywood replacement. A brick pier foundation supports this side porch.

The east side of the ell features an engaged shed room on the north end and an enclosed porch at the south end, close to the main body of the house. Two four-over-four double-hung wood sash windows pierce the east wall of the ell's shed room. To the left of the shed room, a few poured concrete steps lead up to a four-panel door that allows entry into the enclosed portion of the ell's side porch. The weatherboards on the east side of the ell have two seams that may indicate earlier fenestration configurations. The section with the door appears to be the most recently enclosed, as a cornerboard is evident between the door and one of the windows. There is a full-height seam in the weatherboards

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along the north edge of the south window, possibly indicating an earlier location of the door. The two four-over-four windows feature the same sash but slightly different trim, indicating that one window may have been moved from another location on the ell.

The shed-roofed porch along the east end of the rear elevation of the main part of the house remains only partly open. The northeast corner is enclosed, making a small room with a narrow four-over-four double-hung sash window on the east side and a window opening filled with plywood at the rear elevation. A four-panel door on the west wall of the enclosure provides access from the porch; interior walls are unfinished. Wide, beaded weatherboards sheathe the east end of the rear elevation of the house; the weatherboards are visible at the open part of the porch, inside the enclosed room at the northeast corner, and at the northeast edge of the rear elevation of the house. The rear porch floor is tongue-and-groove. A doorway with only a screen door provides access to the house from the porch; this doorway lines up with the easternmost front door. The west end of the back porch has also been enclosed and joined to the ell's enclosed porch to form an L-shaped bathroom. A four-panel door allows entry from the east side of the enclosure, and a six-light sash from a twentieth-century double-hung window has been installed as a fixed sash in the north wall of the enclosure.

The original section of the house is the east half of the main section: a mid-nineteenth-century timber-framed house featuring a three-room plan, vernacular Greek Revival interior woodwork, and beaded weatherboards. At the front of the house, where the burned porch floor has been removed, mortise-and-tenoned timber framing and a corner brace are visible near the southwest corner of the original section. Some framing elements are incised with Roman numerals. The east door on the facade opens in to the hall of the original house, the largest of the three rooms and the only heated space in the original dwelling. Two smaller rooms of equal size occupy the east side of the original section; each is accessible only from the hall. The hall has a flat-board chair rail, tall baseboards, wide plank flooring and a high plank ceiling. The paneled mantelpiece features a plain shelf resting on a heavy cushion molding over a recessed panel with applied molding. A surviving two-panel Greek Revival door with replacement Sargent box lock leads into the rear of the two side rooms; the door to the front room is missing, but a matching two-panel door with lock is propped against a late twentieth-century shed in the rear yard. The two door surrounds into the side rooms and the front and back door surrounds all feature mitered joints. Interior window surrounds are hand-planed and feature an added horizontal trim piece at the top, creating a tall architrave. There are no windows across the rear elevation of this section, including the main room and the rear side room. The two side rooms are unheated. A change in baseboard height on the partition wall between the two rooms may indicate that they were originally a single room. However, long, narrow proportions of such a room would be unusual and the identical appearance of the doors leading into the rooms seems to indicate that the rooms were originally

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divided. There is no evidence of a stair. Plaster covers the walls of each room; a few holes show hand-split lath and cut nails.

A plywood replacement door to the left of the fireplace leads from the hall into the west side of the house. This first added room was built ca. 1860. The wide plank floor is a few inches lower than that in the east end and the plank ceiling is about two feet lower. The chimney and fireplace project into the room and feature a simpler version of the mantelpiece in the original part of the house, with lighter molding and a beveled piece in place of the cushion molding. The walls are narrow tongue-and-groove beadboard and baseboards are shorter than in the earlier section. A closet built into the northwest corner of the room has a plank door. Weatherboard is visible inside the closet, at what would have been an exterior wall of the original section; it is not beaded. A door near the center of the west wall leads into a similar room, added ca. 1880, with wide plank flooring, a narrow plank ceiling, narrow tongue-and-groove beadboard walls, and taller baseboards. These two rooms are timber-framed as well: some missing weatherboards on the back of the westernmost room show a sawn kneebrace and a corner timber, and the foundation exposed at the front porch location shows separate sills for the original section and the first added room. Some framing elements on the exposed sill of the first added room are also marked with incised Roman numerals.

A four-panel door in the north wall of the ca. 1860 room leads into the ca. 1900 ell, which has two rooms, a small original pantry, and an original porch enclosed in the mid-to-late twentieth-century to serve as a bathroom. Both the pantry and the enclosed porch are sheltered by an engaged shed roof along the east side of the rear wing. The two larger rooms are simple and crudely finished. Interior walls are covered by horizontal or vertical boards; the flooring in both rooms is wide plank; and it has a narrower plank ceiling. Access to the attic is through a small scuttle near the northwest corner of the rearmost room. That room also has a stone fireplace surround with a simple shelf mantel on the north wall and an exterior six-light paneled door on the west wall. The door leads to the small side porch.

The pantry also has a plank floor, but the walls and ceiling are narrow beadboard. Shelves line the walls of the pantry, which is illuminated by the two four-over-four windows on the east wall of the ell. The enclosed bathroom is an L-shaped room with a recently installed fiberglass bathtub and surround, a small vanity, and a toilet.

Well House, ca. 1900, Contributing structure

A well house stands just northeast of the house. A standing-seam metal-covered gabled roof supported by braced rustic timbers shelters the well. A poured-concrete section brings the well opening aboveground; belowground, fieldstone lines the well.

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Adams-Edwards House
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SUMMARY

The Adams-Edwards House is a rare surviving Wake County example of a modest mid-nineteenth-century house. Its original section features a three-room plan house from that period, apparently the only surviving example of that plan in the county. Quinton and Piresa Adams likely built the house ca. 1850; they also farmed some of the 112 acres they owned around the house on both sides of Tryon Road. For the last quarter of the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth century, the William and Frances Edwards family, also farmers, owned the farm and lived in the house. In typical fashion, owners repeatedly expanded the dwelling between its construction date and the first quarter of the twentieth century, reflecting the ways that families with small-scale farms enlarged and updated their houses over time. Additions and alterations to the Adams-Edwards House during the period of significance included two successive single-room additions to the west end of the house in the mid- and late nineteenth century, front and rear porches and some cosmetic remodeling ca. 1880, and an early twentieth-century rear ell at the north end of the house. This work transformed the house into a triple-A cottage with a rear ell, a very common late nineteenth-century house type in rural Wake County.

Context 1, "British and Africans Shape an Agrarian Society (Colonial Period to 1860)," and Context 2, "Civil War, Reconstruction, and a Shift to Commercial Agriculture (1861-1885)," in "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina, Ca. 1770-1941" (MPDF) provide the historic context for the construction and enlargement of the Adams-Edwards House. The locally significant Adams-Edwards House falls under Property Types 3A and 3B, "Houses Built from the Colonial Period to the Civil War Era" and "Houses Built Between the Civil War and World War I." Additional context for the Adams-Edwards House is provided herein. Houses in Wake County are significant as reflections of the architectural trends that reached the county and the choices and adaptations that people made in terms of architectural design and style. Individual houses in Wake County must retain a high level of integrity to be considered eligible under Criterion C for architectural significance, according to the registration requirements in the MPDF. Houses representing a progression of stylistic influences, such as the Adams-Edwards House, have alterations that are part of the historic fabric of the resource and represent the pattern of updating houses over time. The period of significance for the house is ca. 1850 through ca. 1900, encompassing the date of construction and the later significant additions and alterations to the house.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Adams-Edwards House was likely built ca. 1850, judging by certain details of its construction: beaded weatherboards survive on the rear wall of the original, east portion of the house, timber framing

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is evident at the sill and underneath the east end of the house, and vernacular Greek Revival detailing adorns the interior. Deed research for the parcel could only trace ownership back to 1869, when Rufus Howell purchased the house and 112 acres at a court-ordered auction after owner Quinton Adams failed to repay some debts. The tract is described, in part, as “on the Avent Ferry Road, it being the land where Quinton Adams now lives.” Historic maps indicate that Avent Ferry Road in the late 1800s followed the line of today’s Holly Springs/Jones Franklin Road. While the Adams-Edwards House faces Tryon Road, the 112 acres may have spread as far northwest as today’s Jones Franklin Road, about a third of a mile west at Macedonia Crossroads.¹

No record could be found for Quinton Adams’s purchase or acquisition of the house and land, but Adams is listed in Wake County in both the 1850 and 1860 censuses. In 1850, Adams, twenty-two years old, lived in the county’s Western Division with his twenty-one-year-old wife Piresa and their daughter Nancy, three months old. (Swift Creek Township was not established until 1868.) Adams worked just twelve improved acres with the labor of a twenty-four-year-old enslaved woman and a ten-year-old enslaved boy, but Adams also owned 101 unimproved acres. The 1860 census listed Adams in the Southern Division of Wake County; the house, however, is located in central-southwestern Wake County and the change in division could be the result of reorganized enumeration districts rather than a move by the Adams family. The 1860 census lists the thirty-two-year-old Adams with six children, aged five to eleven years old, and a new wife, twenty-two-year-old Susan. The population census recorded that the Adams farm consisted of twenty improved acres and fifty-seven unimproved acres. Adams may have made the first addition to the house, a large room appended to the west gable end of the dwelling and heated with the existing chimney, in the 1850s to accommodate his growing family. Indeed, the Adams farm prospered throughout the 1850s: in that decade, the value of the farm increased from \$98 to \$368. Adams farmed twenty acres by 1860 rather than twelve, but kept about as much livestock as he had in 1850. Among his crops, Adams significantly increased the amount of sweet potatoes grown, from twenty-five bushels to one hundred bushels. The farm also produced forty pounds of butter and \$20 worth of orchard products in 1860—likely enough for the family’s consumption only. Adams had purchased farm implements and machinery such that his total value of major farm tools items increased from \$6 to \$60 between the two census counts. The 1860 slave census notes that Adams owned an eight-year-old girl and a six-year-old boy; the census also records

¹ Kelly Lally, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County* (Raleigh: Wake County Government, 1994), 30; T. F. Lee to Rufus Howell, January 27, 1869, Wake County Deeds, Book 26, Page 546-547, Garland Jones Building, Raleigh; Fendol Bevers, *Map of Wake County: Drawn from Actual Surveys* [Raleigh, N.C.] : Nichols & Gorman, [1870]; *Shaffers Map of Wake County, NC*, [Raleigh, N.C. : A.W. Shaffer], 1887; Dan Woodall (great-grandson of William and Frances Edwards), interview with the author, January 27, 2006.

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that Adams had one slave house. After the Civil War, the Adams family suffered economically, as many in the county did, and they eventually lost the farm in 1869 due to unpaid debts.²

Rufus Howell, a young neighbor of the Adams family, bought the house and accompanying 112 acres in 1869 for \$150. Howell rented the house to tenants Frank and Lucy Hitchcock. Frank Hitchcock, according to the 1870 census, was a forty-two-year-old farmer married to Lucy Hitchcock, also forty-two and keeping house. They lived with two boarders and a farm laborer. The 1870 census lists the land value as \$1,200. Later that year, Howell sold the entire parcel to real estate investor and future governor Daniel G. Fowle for \$185.75. Fowle sold it four years later to William Edwards for \$1,000.³

William (b. 1836) and Frances (b. 1846) Edwards already had three children by the time they bought their house on Old Tryon Road. They had three more children over the next decade, perhaps necessitating the second addition to the west side of the dwelling, a narrow unheated room. The 1880 agricultural schedule of the federal census records that the family cultivated forty-five acres and kept two acres in meadows for livestock. Fifty additional acres remained wooded. The value of the farm had reached \$2,500 by 1880, and Edwards employed an African American man to work the farm with him. The farm produced butter, eggs, apples, potatoes, corn, oats, wheat, and cotton, in amounts that indicate home consumption.⁴

Records confirming the dates of the deaths of William and Frances Edwards could not be found, but both lived into the twentieth century. William registered to vote in Wake County in 1902, and Frances Edwards last appeared in the 1920 census, listed as a widow and living with her daughter Dora (1872-1959), second child and first daughter of William and Frances. In 1913, surveyor William Massey drew a map dividing the farm parcel among William's heirs; they did not file the map, however, until 1920. Ultimately, the house and fifteen acres went to Dora, who never married. The 1930 census

² Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Population, Slave, and Agriculture Schedules (microfilm), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh; Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Population, Slave, and Agriculture Schedules (microfilm), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh; T. F. Lee to Rufus Howell, January 27, 1869, Wake County Deeds, Book 26, Page 546-547, Garland Jones Building, Raleigh.

³ T. F. Lee to Rufus Howell, January 27, 1869, Wake County Deeds, Book 26, Page 546-547, Garland Jones Building, Raleigh; Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Population (microfilm), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh; Daniel G. Fowle & ux to William Edwards, October 13, 1874, Wake County Deeds, Book 38, Page 774-775, Garland Jones Building, Raleigh; Julia Jones Hicks, "Daniel Gould Fowle," in *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography: Volume 2*, ed. William S. Powell (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1986), 230-231; Daniel G. Fowle, "The Best Water Power in Middle North Carolina for Sale," 1874 flyer, in the North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

⁴ Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Population and Agriculture Schedules (microfilm), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

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shows her living alone. Given the dwindling number of family members living in the house in the twentieth century, it is likely that the rear ell had been added around the turn of the twentieth century.⁵

A 1929 report on housing conditions for white farm families in the county, produced by the North Carolina State College Agricultural Experiment Station, reveals that the Adams-Edwards House was a slightly larger than typical farmhouse for the period, while the family size was much smaller than generally found at the time. More than two-thirds of owner-occupied farm houses in 1929 were single-story dwellings with an average of six rooms, occupied by eight or nine people, including children. The Adams-Edwards house had seven rooms (excluding the pantry and porch enclosures) and only two adult residents. Just five owners out of 294 covered by the report heated their homes with a system other than a fireplace and/or stove. Only sixteen percent of owner-occupied farmhouses had electricity; more than half of those produced their own. The report apparently did not track the ages of the houses in the study.⁶

Dora Edwards died in 1959 and her will directed that her property be divided equally among siblings Joe S. Edwards (1885-1966), Ada Edwards Franklin (1877-?), and Mattie Edwards Woodall (1874-1958), the latter predeceasing Dora. The remaining siblings sold the house and land and the property passed briefly out of the family. In 1964, G. Ray Woodall, a son of Mattie Edwards Woodall and grandson of William and Frances, bought the house and a few acres and leased it to tenants. Ray Woodall sold the house in 1978 to Jerry Paul Pritchard, who also rented out the house. The house is currently vacant, and the land behind it to the northeast is to be developed into a residential subdivision in the near future. Dan Woodall, a grandson of Mattie Edwards Woodall and nephew of Ray Woodall, has a contract to purchase the house and rehabilitate it.⁷

⁵ DeWayne C. McCarty, comp., *Wake County, North Carolina, Voter Registration Records for 1902, 1904, & 1906* (Cary, N.C.: DCM Industries, 1991), 120; Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920: Population (microfilm), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh; Joe S. Edwards et al to Dora Edwards, January 1, 1916, Wake County Deeds, Book 350, p. 546-547, Garland Jones Building, Raleigh; Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930: Population (microfilm), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

⁶ Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920: Population (microfilm), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh; Agriculture Experiment Station of the North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering, *Farm Family Living Among White Owner and Tenant Operators in Wake County* (Raleigh: n.p., 1929), 89-91.

⁷ Will of Dora Edwards, August 14, 1959, Wake County Wills, Vol. Z, p. 186 (microfilm), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh; William L. Dawkins to G. Ray and Eleanor McK. Woodall, November 30, 1964, Wake County Deeds, Book 1620, p. 476, Garland Jones Building, Raleigh; G. Ray and Eleanor McK. Woodall to Jerry Paul Pritchard, June 14, 1978, Book 2627, p. 755, Wake County Deeds, Garland Jones Building, Raleigh.

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ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The Adams-Edwards House is one of a handful of surviving mid-nineteenth-century yeoman farmer's houses in Wake County. Its original ca. 1850 section is the only example of a three-room-plan dwelling in the county; past architectural surveys and research have not established whether other modest three-room plan houses were built in Wake County. Like many antebellum dwellings, the house features a timber frame with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. The oldest section of the house also displays the simple Greek Revival woodwork often seen in the middle of the nineteenth century, at the height of that style's popularity in the county. The house has three additions and on the exterior displays a turn-of-the-century architectural style and form. These changes are commonly observed in surviving modest dwellings from the period and the original section remains clearly discernable in the interior.⁸

The mortise-and-tenoned timber frame was popular in Wake County before the Civil War, as was log construction, for modest housing. The entire front portion of the Adams-Edwards house—the original east section and the first two added rooms to the west end of the dwelling—features timber framing. The frame is visible at various points: the sill across much the front of the house is visible where the absent porch floor once joined to the house. In fact, two separate sills are apparent, one corresponding to the original three-bay east end of the house, and a second for the first added room, which is two bays wide. On the rear elevation, near the northwest corner of the front part of the house, a few missing weatherboards reveal that the second added room is also timber-framed.⁹

The original, east section of the house features a three-room plan with one surviving vernacular Greek Revival interior door, six-over-six double-hung sash windows, tall baseboards, flat-board chair rails, mitered door surrounds, plaster walls over hand-split lath, plank floors and ceilings, and some surviving sections of the original beaded weatherboard cladding. The three-room plan was a popular house form in the colonial period, so the Adams-Edwards House is a late—and atypical—example of the plan. Unlike the colonial examples in eastern North Carolina, which featured three heated rooms, the original section of the Adams-Edwards House had just one heated room. The multipurpose hall features a fireplace on the west wall and two exterior doorways in the north and south elevations. The east wall of the hall divides it from the two smaller rooms, which are of equal size. The wall between the two unheated rooms has a shorter baseboard than elsewhere in this section of the house. This may indicate that the two smaller rooms were once a single, narrow room, but those proportions would not be typical of those seen in other hall-parlor plans. The trim on the two doors leading from the hall into

⁸ Kelly Lally and Todd Johnson, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941), Multiple Property Documentation Form (hereafter cited at Wake County MPDF), 127-129.

⁹ Wake County MPDF, 126.

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each of the small rooms are identical and each doorway is perfectly centered on the west wall of each small room; these details hint that the two rooms were never a single space.¹⁰

Surviving modest single-pile antebellum houses in Wake County more likely feature a single room, such as the Hugh Blalock House (WA1156; heavily altered) near Willow Springs or a hall-parlor plan, seen in the John A. and Sarah Jones House (WA 527, SL 1990) near Fuquay-Varina. Surviving double-pile examples, like the Adcock House (WA 559; altered with the addition of synthetic siding) in Middle Creek Township, employed the center-hall plan. Other modest houses that survive from the mid-nineteenth-century in Wake County include the Sorrell House (WA 734) in Cary Township, a mortise-and-tenon-framed house with Greek Revival interior details and original engaged shed rooms; and the Jewell Middleton House (WA 345), in Panther Branch Township, which appears to have originated as a one-room house in the 1850s.¹¹

Like all surviving modest, mid-nineteenth century houses in Wake County, the Adams-Edwards House has multiple additions and, like most dwellings, displays a remodeled exterior. Two early expansion phases each added a single room to the east end of the side-gabled house. Both additions feature timber framing on stone foundations and both continued the side-gabled roof. The chimney from the original hall heated the first added room; the second added room, like the two small rooms from the original section, is unheated. The mantel in the heated room generally matches the details of the original mantel in a reduced scale. The original mantel features a plain shelf on a heavy cushion molding over a recessed panel; the second mantel replaces the cushion with a beveled piece and employs generally simpler moldings. Both added rooms feature 6/6 double-hung sash and plank floors and ceilings, like the original section of the house. Other details differ, however, including the beadboard walls and the interior trim surrounding doors and windows. The first addition may have been built very soon after the original dwelling, to accommodate Adams's growing family between 1850 and 1860. The second and third expansions likely were built by William Edwards after he purchased the house and 112 acres in 1874. Edwards and his wife Frances already had three children when they bought the house; they would have three more by 1885. The house was also resided with plain weatherboards, perhaps at the time of the second addition in order to hide the additions' seams; some of the original beaded weatherboards remain at the rear elevation of the original east end of the house.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, simple Wake County houses like the Adams-Edwards House were commonly remodeled to update their appearance; this is the case with all of Wake

¹⁰ Catherine Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture* portable ed. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005), 17.

¹¹ Lally, 327, 340, 360, 378, 398, 407; Wake County survey files, Survey and Planning Branch, North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

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County's surviving examples. In addition to re-siding the house, the Edwardses likely added the third gable centered on the front of the roof slope, creating a form commonly seen throughout the county and often referred to as a "triple-A" roof (each gable representing the letter "A"). The added center gable at the Adams-Edwards House is purely decorative—the attic space does not appear to have been used and there is no evidence of a stair in the house, although there is a small window in both the east gable wall and in the center gable. The wood shakes that covered the north slope of the side-gable roof of the original east end of the house before the standing-seam metal roof was installed are visible beneath the center gable.¹²

The triple-A roof form appeared on both single-story and two-story single-pile houses and it was likely the most-common form seen on turn-of-the-twentieth-century houses in Wake County. Popular pattern books, widely available in this period, are credited with the popularity of the roof form in the county. Aside from the common roof form, however, triple-A cottages and I-houses could vary dramatically in the level of other detailing they feature. The House-Nichols House (WA 1979) near Knightdale is a good example of a triple-A cottage with Queen Anne trim; it features simple sawn brackets, turned balustrades, and quatrefoil vents in the gables. What level of detail the Adams-Edwards House may have featured is not known; the hip-roofed porch, before it burned, appeared to be a 1930s era replacement: its rustic timber porch posts remain. Two of the three gables feature small, square windows; the fact that the third gable does not share this detail may be a clue that the house was not as stylishly decorated as the House-Nichols House when it got its triple-A transformation. The addition of the rear wing likely occurred before the turn of the twentieth century, judging by its stone chimney, which was not common in the twentieth century, and the simple mantelpiece on the fireplace.¹³

Well houses, like the example at the Adams-Edwards House, were common structures accompanying rural houses in Wake County. The well house at the Adams-Edwards House has rustic timber supports like those seen in the front porch of the house. While the well house is not individually significant, it is significant in association with the Adams-Edwards House as a reminder of the realities of rural life, where households had none of the benefits of the urban infrastructure well into the twentieth century.

Modest mid-nineteenth-century yeoman farm family dwellings like the Adams-Edwards House have been far less likely to survive in rapidly developing Wake County than the larger houses with finer architectural detail built by planters or more prosperous antebellum farmers. The central-southwest portion of Wake County in particular has been experiencing very rapid development, with growth from Raleigh and Cary meeting in this general area. Both cities have expanded sections of Tryon Road in

¹² Lally, 105.

¹³ Wake County MPDF, 134; Lally 105.

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this vicinity recently. The Adams-Edwards House is one of a handful of examples of the yeoman family farmhouse from the mid-nineteenth century that do remain and it is further distinguished by its original and intact three-room plan, the only example identified in the county.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Adams-Edwards House includes the parcel currently associated with the property. The parcel number is 0782071153; it is shown on the accompanying tax map and site plan.

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Adams-Edwards House includes acreage historically associated with the house. It encompasses the significant resources and conveys the property's historic setting.



**Real Estate Data
and Revenue
Department**

**Register of
Deeds BOOKS!**
(surveys, plats &
deeds)

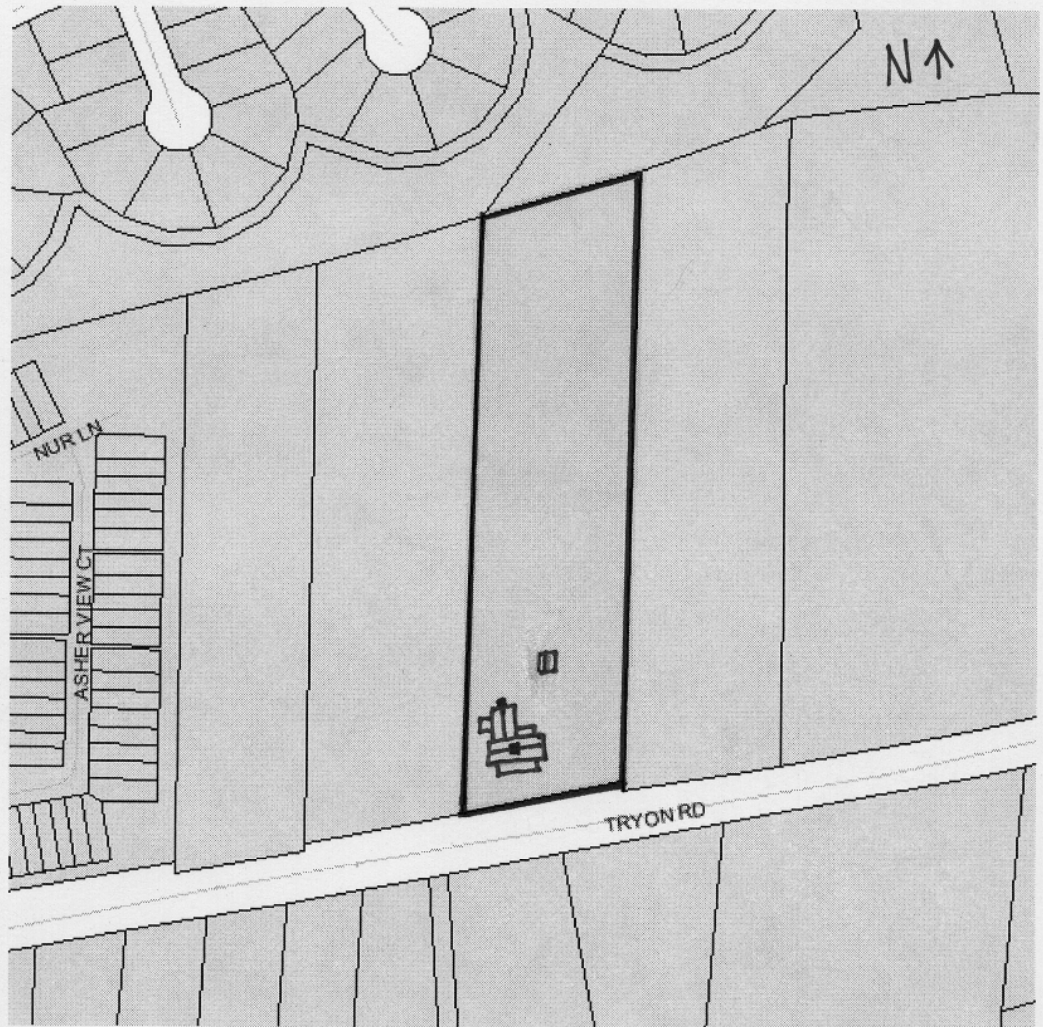
LAYER CODES:

**Fuquay-Varina
Zoning**

Raleigh Zoning

Wake Forest Zoning

Soils Legend



**SURVEY
FAQ**

WHAT'S NEW

SELECT A VIEW

Property
Environmental Features
1999 Color Orthophotography
1999 B/W Orthophotography
2002 Raleigh B/W Orthophotography

Parcel Number: 0782071153-000

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*Adams-Edwards House
Raleigh vic., Wake Co., NC*

*Tax Map + Site Plan
(site plan not
to scale)*